

to come back, but he has pushed him through to the front of the stage and made him a greater popular idol than ever."

In all Roosevelt was ten days on the stand, and when he left it not an utterance or act of his thirty years, of public life remained unexplored and not an atom of evidence had been adduced from any source which smirched his political character. His enemies had, indeed, granted him complete vindication, had proved that throughout his career he had kept absolute faith with the principle of conduct in his dealings with political leaders which he avowed in his letter to Senator Lodge, under date of Oct. 11, 1901, already quoted in these pages: "They may ordinarily name the men (for public office) but I shall name the standard and the men have got to come up to it." Not an atom of proof was adduced to show that in a single instance he had yielded on a matter of principle; but abundant proof was adduced to show that in every instance he had compelled conformity to his standard. There could be no more convincing demonstration that evidence of infidelity to his principles did not exist, for the ability of his enemies to command all sources of information was equal to their zeal in pursuit of it. At the close of the day on which the last of the letters had been read in court he said to a friend: ' * Do you know what meant more to me than anything else in the trial? There was not a single thing in all these old letters of mine that I am ashamed to have my children read.'

In the preparation of the present narrative

of his career,
I have read his entire correspondence, and
there is not in
all of it a single sentence about which he could
not have
truthfully made the same remark. His
enemies could not
find what they sought because it did not exist.

"When the evidence was all in and the case
was virtually
ready to go to the jury, the news of the sinking
of the *Lusitania* arrived and Eoosevelt gave public
expression to his
views on that unparalleled outrage, which he
sincerely be-
lieved at the time would turn the verdict
against him. A
full account of this will be found in the next
chapter.